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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3907

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TAGS: [OTRA](#) [EAID](#) [AMGT](#) [BB](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED TO TODD HAMNER TO TRAVEL TO
BARBADOS

REF: STATE 199395

11. EMBASSY BRIDGETOWN GRANTS COUNTRY CLEARANCE TO TODD HAMNER, USAID
AGRICULTURE AND TRADE ADVISOR, TO TRAVEL TO BARBADOS ON OR ABOUT
DECEMBER 17-22, 2006, TO PROVIDE MISSION ASSISTANCE WITH THE FY07
OPERATIONAL PLAN.

12. EMBASSY POINT OF CONTACT IS USAID REPRESENTATIVE JAMES GOGGIN,
TEL: 1(246) 228-8070, FAX: 1(246)228-8589.

13. MR. HAMNER IS CONFIRMED AT THE CORAL SANDS BEACH RESORT,
WORTHING, CHRIST CHURCH - TEL: 246-435-6617.

14. THE EXCHANGE RATE IS \$2.02 BDS FOR \$1.00 USD. U.S. CURRENCY,
TRAVELER'S CHECKS, AND CREDIT CARDS ARE ROUTINELY AND WIDELY
ACCEPTED HERE.

15. ENTRY/DEPARTURE REQUIREMENTS: MISSION POLICY IS THAT ALL USG
TRAVELERS TO THE REGION BE IN POSSESSION OF A VALID PASSPORT. VISAS
ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR SHORT VISITS. VISITORS ARE GRANTED UP TO 28
DAYS UPON ENTRY, WHICH CAN BE EXTENDED THROUGH THE BARBADOS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS. BARBADOS HAS A
DEPARTURE TAX OF \$25 BDS OR \$13.00 USD. INDIVIDUALS TRAVELING ON
DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS ARE EXEMPT FROM THIS DEPARTURE TAX.

16. THE FOLLOWING GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINS TO TRANSPORTATION,
SECURITY AND HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN:

SECURITY

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN, FOOT TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF
WELL-ESTABLISHED TOURIST AREAS IS NOT GENERALLY RECOMMENDED
ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT. BE VIGILANT WHEN USING PUBLIC TELEPHONES OR
ATM FACILITIES NEAR ROADSIDES OR QUIET AREAS. AS IN MANY U.S.
METROPOLITAN AREAS, WEARING EXPENSIVE JEWELRY, CARRYING EXPENSIVE
OBJECTS, OR CARRYING LARGE AMOUNTS OF CASH SHOULD BE AVOIDED.
VISITORS SHOULD ALSO SAFEGUARD VALUABLES WHILE AT THE BEACH. WHILE
HOTELS ARE GENERALLY SAFE, MANY VISITORS HAVE EXPERIENCED LOSS OF
UNATTENDED ITEMS. HOTEL BURGLARIES ARE NOT UNCOMMON, AND ALL
VALUABLES SHOULD BE LOCKED IN ROOM SAFES.

HEALTH INFORMATION

THROUGHOUT THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN, THE MOST LIKELY THREAT TO A
VISITOR'S HEALTH IS SUNBURN. IT TAKES SEVERAL WEEKS TO BECOME
ACCUSTOMED TO THE HEAT AND HUMIDITY. PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO THE SUN,
WITHOUT PROTECTION, CAUSES SUNBURN AND MAY ULTIMATELY RESULT IN
SUN-DAMAGED SKIN OR EVEN SKIN CANCER. SUNSCREENS SHOULD BE USED FOR
PROTECTION. IN BARBADOS, ST. LUCIA, AND ST. VINCENT THE MAJOR
HEALTH THREAT IS DENGUE FEVER, TRANSMITTED BY MOSQUITO. DENGUE
CASES ARE MOST OFTEN SEEN IN THE SUMMER MONTHS. PERSONS SHOULD
THEREFORE PROTECT THEMSELVES WITH INSECT REPELLANT. THERE IS ALSO A
GROWING NUMBER OF HIV/AIDS CASES REPORTED. THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN
ENJOYS CLEAN AND SAFE DRINKING WATER. ONLY ROUTINE BOOSTERS FOR
IMMUNIZATIONS (I.E., TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA, AND ORAL POLIO VACCINE)

ARE REQUIRED WHEN TRAVELING TO THIS REGION. BARBADOS HAS THE BEST
MEDICAL FACILITIES OF ALL THE ISLANDS IN THE REGION AND MOST OF THE
MEDICAL SPECIALTIES HAVE PRACTITIONERS HERE.

GILROY